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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/920,765	08/03/2001	Yasushi Konuma	212089US6	5944
22850	7590	09/23/2005	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			NATNAEL, PAULOS M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2614	

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/920,765

Applicant(s)

KONUMA, YASUSHI

Examiner

Paulos M. Natnael

Art Unit

2614

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2005.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 15 and 16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 16 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims **15** and **16** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Worrell U.S. 6,690,425 in view of Hiroi, U.S. 6,204,887.

Considering claims **15** and **16**, Worrell discloses an aspect ratio control arrangement in a video display comprising multiple format video source 502, a receiver 504 comprising front end 508, demodulator 510, format detector/controller 512 and decoder and format controller 514, display driver 518 and television display 506. Worrell discloses that the decoder and format controller 514 decodes the digital video source material and selects the image aspect ratio format of the displayed image for display on display screen 506, in accordance with a user selected image aspect ratio. Col. 3, lines 3-7 Worrell teaches "For a display device having a 4:3 physical aspect ratio, the display driver 518 would display the 16:9 source aspect ratio in a letterbox format such that bands of black screen (cropping) appear at the top and bottom of the displayed video. Such a display 600 is shown in FIG. 6. The format detector 512 is coupled to the decoder and format controller 514 and produces an output signal 512a. Format detector 512 detects a

change in the source aspect ratio of the incoming video source signal. In carrying out an inventive feature, when a change in the video signal aspect ratio format would tend to produce a distortion in the image, the user's selected aspect ratio format for the image will be automatically overridden to provide a suitable different image aspect ratio format. Thereby, the displayed image will display the picture information of the incoming source material in an undistorted manner. For digital source material, the format detector 512 can monitor the bitstream information that contains an indicator of the source aspect ratio for the material embedded in the bitstream. For analog source material, the format detector 512 can monitor the chrominance signal for a DC offset that can exist when there is a 16:9 aspect ratio signal being received. [emphasis added by examiner] Automatic letterbox detectors are also known that examine luminance data. A 4:3 aspect ratio signal does not generate a DC offset in the chrominance signal. As such, for either a digital video source or an analog video source, the format detector 512 can detect the appropriate image aspect ratio format for displaying the source material. " see col. 3, lines 18-47

Worrell does not specifically disclose displaying multiple video signals on the screen.

However, displaying two or more signals on a single screen or monitor is notoriously well known in the art. In that regard, Hiroi teaches displaying multiple images from different video sequences using a common processor as illustrated in Figure 3A for example which shows TV Program 1, TV Program 2, and TV Program 3 displayed on screen 302. Therefore, it would have been obvious to the skilled in the art

at the time the invention was made to modify the system of Worrell by providing the well known method of displaying two or more signals on a single screen as taught by Hiroi, in order to give the viewer different choices or let the viewer enjoy watching simultaneously several programs, as in sports programming.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 7/7/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that "Worrell's device receives a signal of a specific format from a single input (502), and adjusts the aspect ratio, regardless of the user's setting, so that the image is displayed on the display (506) without distortion; that "Worrell's system does not include a plurality of input video signals that are selected, but instead only provides a plurality of input video signals from which one of these signals is selected"; that "Worrell fails to teach or suggest at any point that signals from a plurality of sources are displayed. Instead Worrell simply describes that the format of a single displayed video signal may be modified so that the single signal is displayed..."and Worrell's system fails to have the capability to select a plurality of input video signals, much less the ability to displaying a plurality of signals, as recited in amended claim 15. (pages 5 and 6)

The Examiner submits that (a) Worrell clearly and unambiguously discloses that

"The multiple format video source 502 is illustratively one or more source devices including, but not limited to, a DVD player, a set top box, a source of high

definition television signals, a cable television source, an off-the-air

television source, and the like. The video source 502 provides the television 500 with source material having various video signal aspect ratio formats including 4:3 aspect ratio format and 16:9 aspect ratio format." (see col. 2, lines 48-55)

Therefore, if one or more source devices provide video signals to the system, it follows that the system either selects one of the plurality of the signals or selects all of the signals. (b) In this case, the system of Worrell selects one of the signals at a time. However, note that the claims do not recite that the plurality of signals are simultaneously selected and displayed. Besides, the Worrell reference does not preclude having multiple signals from being displayed on the display device, and as shown above, would have been obvious to the skilled in the art to modify the reference as well.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paulos M. Natnael whose telephone number is (571) 272-7354. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00am - 6:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (571)272-7353. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paulos M. Natnael', with a long vertical line extending downwards from the end of the signature.

Paulos M. Natnael
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2614

Pmn
September 15, 2005